Lambda Letters Project

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How will you spend *your* tax rebate?

By Boyce Hinman, chief lobbyist

Many people will soon receive a tax rebate check from the federal government. For most people, it will be for $600; for two adults in a household, it could be as much as $1,200. The government, and certainly most businesses, hope you will use the money to make new purchases and stimulate the economy. However, many financial advisors suggest it would be wiser for people to use the money in other ways.

I am not a qualified financial advisor. You must make your own decisions. However, for what it is worth, here are some of the suggestions that I have been reading about:

- **Pay down high interest debt.** Average credit card holders pay 12.5% interest on their unpaid balances. Some credit cards charge as much as 20–22% on their unpaid balance. Many of the sources I read suggest that paying off your credit card should be a high priority.
- **Put money away in an emergency fund.** Unemployment rates are rising. According to the California Employment Development Department, the unemployment rate is California is 5.7%, up from 5.0% a year ago. Many people worry that we are headed into a recession. Most financial advisors suggest that you build an emergency fund with at least six months of expenses in it to tide you over should you lose your job.
- **Increase your value to your employer.** Spend a little money on a course that will teach you skills that make you more valuable to your employer. That may reduce the chance of getting laid off.
- **Invest some of your rebate check.** Putting some of the rebate in your 401(k) or in a stock or bond fund (and leaving it there) could result in a more secure financial situation once you retire.
- **Pamper yourself.** It is fine to spend a little on yourself. But many advisors suggest that you spend no more than 10% of the rebate in this way.

If you are indeed going to go shopping, may I suggest that you shop online at **Goodshop.com**. This website offers links to over 500 different online stores (including such popular ones as Amazon.com, eBay, Expedia, iTunes, Lands' End, Macy's, etc.). Up to 30% of what you pay for your purchases can be donated to the Lambda Letters Project **at no cost to yourself**. Plus you have the luxury of shopping from home. You don't have to spend money on increasingly expensive gas driving to the malls.

If you would like to shop online, just do the following:

1. Direct your browser to *www.goodshop.com*.
2. Type the name "Lambda Letters Project" in the text box that appears.
3. Scroll down until you see the logo of the store you would like to shop at.
4. Shop away!

Be wise and save. But if you do wish to shop, shop and support justice at no cost to yourself by shopping at Goodshop.com.

Do you e-mail?

By Boyce Hinman, chief lobbyist

E-mail is one of the most effective ways to influence legislators. Lambda Letters' members send about 280,000 yearly to their legislators—who tell us this is a very effective means of communication. Senator Sheila Kuehl, for instance, has said, "the work of the Lambda Letters Project often makes the difference between a bill passing and failing."

We have about 850 people on our e-mail alert list, but we need many more. Do you receive our e-mail alerts? If not, please join the program by sending a request to LambdaLP@aol.com. Get your friends to join too.

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Lambda Letters progress report

Letters collected

March, 2008	13,735 letters & e-mails
In all of 2008	85,018 letters & e-mails

Dollars spent

March, 2008	$8,703
In all of 2008	$21,290

Can you help?
Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Our mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

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LGBTI issue

Protect LGBTI community from discrimination

By Boyce Hinman, chief lobbyist

All through California's laws there are rules prohibiting various types of discrimination. The problem is that the lists of rules vary considerably as to the types of discrimination they prohibit. Some prohibit discrimination against the LGBTI community, while others do not. Some prohibit racial or religious discrimination; others do not.

One effect of this inconsistency is that people who should be protected against discrimination sometimes are not protected by the law. Another problem is that businesses can end up being confused as to just what types of discrimination are actually prohibited. The rules that apply to one of their business activities may differ from other activities. This can be very frustrating for someone who is trying to obey the law while running a business.

AB 2654 provides a very simple and sensible solution for this problem. It amends about a dozen laws found in the various government codes and places the same list of prohibited forms of discrimination in each of them. The list, which prohibits sexual orientation and gender identity-based discrimination, is the same as that found in Government Code Section 11135 of the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

AB 2654 does another excellent thing. It says that any time an item is added to the list of prohibited forms of discrimination in the Unruh Civil Rights Act, the lists in all laws covered by AB 2654 will be changed as well.

This good practice protects all people who should be protected, and it does so with a uniform set of rules that makes it easier for businesses to comply with. AB 2654 is good legislation. Please urge the Assembly Appropriations Committee to support this important bill.

Economic issue

Oppose corporate tax cuts

By Rebecca Chamow, legislative analyst

With the state facing a fiscal crisis, the last thing we need in California right now is a drastic tax cut for wealthy corporations. The Corporation Tax Law imposes a minimum franchise tax on every business in the state, with a few specific exceptions. Under current law, the tax is imposed annually at the rate of $800. A new bill by Assemblyman Garrick, AB 2178, would reduce this rate to $200, effectively a 75% tax cut.

Throughout California, individuals are facing challenging financial situations. A Goldman Sachs report from late 2007 noted that California's unemployment rate has increased at a worrisome pace. In Sacramento, the legislature and the governor are working together to reduce the state's $8 billion-plus deficit.

AB 2178 would not help California climb out of this budget hole. It would exacerbate the problem. By reducing the corporation tax rate, this bill would lower state government income. In turn, this would increase pressure to cut budgets for education, health, and social service programs, which are already being cut significantly.

This bill is untimely, irresponsible, and unfair. Please write to your Assembly member and tell him or her how damaging this bill would be to California.

People of color issue

Notify patients of right to interpreters

By Marty Martinez, legislative analyst

In 2003, a state bill was signed into law requiring health insurance companies, including HMOs, to provide interpreters to their subscribers who do not speak English. Four years later, regulations were finally approved by the California Department of Insurance (CDI) and the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) specifying how this law would be implemented.

Included in the regulations is a requirement that insurers send out a notice in languages other than English to their subscribers, telling them about their right to an interpreter. Unfortunately, the regulations don't require insurers to put the notice in more than a few languages—despite the great language diversity in California and the fact that the new law allows subscribers to get an interpreter when they make a medical appointment or call their insurer, regardless of the language they speak. In addition, the regulations are vague about the kind of information that must go in these notices, or how they must be sent to subscribers and how often.

AB 3027 (De Leon) takes care of these problems by requiring insurers to send out a standard notice in many different languages. The bill will require the CDI and DMHC to develop a simple notice containing information on how to contact your health plan or insurance company for an interpreter, and to list the state's complaints phone numbers in case there are problems obtaining these services. The notice would be translated into 13 languages, and health insurers would be required to mail the notice out multiple times to their subscribers.

AB 3027 will ensure that our communities know about their rights under the law and have equal access to health care services. Please send a letter of support to the Assembly Appropriations Committee today.

Women's issue

Survey facilities serving women, children

By Alex Widmann, legislative analyst

Over 75% of female inmates have children and most had custody of their children before their imprisonment. After a mother is incarcerated, many children go to live with grandparents or other relatives, while at least 10% are placed in foster care.

The Family Foundations Program in California allows female inmates with infants or small children to be incarcerated with them at special facilities that focus on teaching life skills to the mother. This program allows women convicted of nonviolent crimes to live in small communities and learn to parent their children. When they are effective, these programs help to rehabilitate women and significantly reduce recidivism rates.

Three such facilities currently exist in California, along with several other mother-infant care programs throughout the state. Services at these facilities include counseling, parenting skills training, child development services, and vocational skills training. When operated correctly, these alternatives to prison make large strides in reforming female offenders rather than simply punishing them.

However, these facilities have recently faced accusations of mismanagement and even abuse. In 2007 a facility in San Diego was accused of neglecting to provide adequate medical care to the inmates and their children. Many injuries went undocumented and hospital visits and medical attention were regularly denied.

AB 2972, proposed by Assemblymember Lieber, would establish a formal survey of these facilities to ensure that critical oversight is taking place. The survey would allow the state to note where it is deficient or negligent in providing services to these women and children and make procedural changes accordingly. This is an important check on this system and would allow the program to evolve to continue to meet the needs of these families.

Maintaining this program is critical to the rehabilitation of California's female offenders who have children. California is a leader in providing these services to mothers and their children; only a few other states have developed similar programs. These programs send a strong message that California values family and is committed to supporting mothers and children in creative ways.

Please show your support for these women and children and urge your representative to vote in favor of AB 2972 when it comes before them in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

HIV/AIDS issue

End DEA raids on patients, providers

By Lorraine Rinker, legislative analyst

SJR 20, introduced by Senator Carole Migden, urges the president and US Congress to enact legislation requiring federal law enforcement to respect state medical marijuana laws, to cease raids of medical marijuana dispensaries that are operating legally under California and local law, and to return any assets seized from medical marijuana dispensaries and collectives to the states in which they are located.

The Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (Proposition 215) was passed by California voters, giving seriously ill Californians "the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes." In 2003, SB 420 was signed into law establishing the right of qualified patients to access medical marijuana through collectives and cooperatives.

In 2005, the United States Supreme Court granted authority (in *Gonzales v. Raich*) for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to arrest and prosecute medical marijuana patients. But it refused to overturn any state's medical marijuana laws. In that same year, the California Appellate Court ruled that SB 420 does protect dispensaries that operate collectively. This ruling (and SB 420) laid the groundwork for protecting medical marijuana dispensaries and improved access for more than 200,000 patients throughout California.

DEA intervention in legal medical marijuana states has escalated since the Supreme Court's 2005 *Gonzales v. Raich* decision. The Department of Justice has increased its efforts by conducting raids on dozens of legal, registered medical marijuana patient collectives across California. Likewise the DEA has stepped up its focus on raiding medical marijuana patients and providers across the west.

In June 2007, the DEA expanded its tactics to undermine state law by distributing more than 300 formal letters threatening property owners who serve as landlords for medical marijuana dispensaries. The letters warned landlords that they could be criminally prosecuted and their property seized if they continued to lease to medical marijuana dispensaries. As a result, the DEA has forced dozens more facilities to close, further undermining the implementation of state law.

These raids are harmful not only to those seriously ill patients who depend on access to medical marijuana, but also to California taxpayers. Most, if not all, of the dispensaries raided by the DEA collect and pay sales tax to the State Board of Equalization. Many of these facilities also report and pay income tax to the California Franchise Tax Board and Internal Revenue Service. In fact, the federal seizure of assets from medical marijuana dispensaries threatens an estimated $100 million in sales tax annually.

Here is what SJR 20 does:

- Sends a message to Congress and the president that Californians are best equipped to deal with the implementation of their state medical marijuana law.
- Recognizes the efficacy of medical marijuana and the plight of medical marijuana patients and their providers, and asks the federal government to take action to protect safe access to their medicine.

SJR 20 affirms California's medical marijuana laws and the distribution system it has put into place. It frames the issue of medical marijuana as a state issue. It's long past time for the federal government to respect state medical and marijuana laws. Your support of SJR 20 will echo California's long-term support of a "safe and affordable" medical marijuana distribution system.

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May legislative update

Deadlines for the passage of bills are now looming. They vary depending on whether a bill is expected to cost the state significant money or not. Bills expected to cost the state a lot of money are called fiscal bills and must first go to a policy committee and then to the Appropriations Committee.

In theory, the policy committee considers whether the bill makes good policy sense. The Appropriations Committee decides whether the bill is a good use of the state's money. Bills that are not expected to cost the state much money are called non-fiscal bills. They can go right to the floor of the Senate or Assembly if approved by their policy committee.

April 18 was the deadline for policy committees to approve all fiscal bills and send them to the Appropriations Committee. The policy committees had until May 2 to approve all non-fiscal bills that were introduced in the legislature this year, and send them to the floor of the first house they were introduced in. For example a non-fiscal bill introduced in the Assembly this year had to be sent to the floor of the Assembly by May 2.

Finally, May 23 is the last day for the Appropriations Committee of each house to approve bills introduced in their house this year. Any bills that fail to meet these deadlines are dead.

If a bill has been referred to a committee, but has not yet been given a date to be voted on, the status line in the Legislative Update will simply say "referred to such-and-such committee." If a bill has been assigned a date to be voted on, that date will appear on the status line as "set for hearing."

Note: Because of our early deadline for submitting information to the newsletter, the status of some of the following bills may have changed by the time you read this. To get the latest information, visit *lambdaletters.org* and click the Legislative Update link in the main menu. The status of the bills in that list is updated daily.

Reading Study Participants Needed

UC Davis Adult Development Lab is currently searching for people aged 18–80 to participate in a study on reading comprehension.

The study consists of two 2-hour sessions scheduled one week apart. English must be your native language.

The Lambda Letters Project is searching for participants who are willing to take part in the study and donate the $40 stipend provided by UC Davis to help us achieve our mission.

Please contact Myeva Thierry at 916.444.8501 or e-mail Allp1234@aol.com to sign up and receive additional information.

HIV/AIDS issues

AB 1894 (Paul Krekorian, D–Glendale)
Purpose: Would require health insurance plans and Medi-Cal to cover the cost of HIV testing and AIDS testing whether or not HIV is related to the primary diagnosis.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on HEALTH.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1984 (Sandre Swanson, D–Oakland)
Purpose: Would require the state to make voluntary, confidential, HIV tests available to state prisoners. Would allow the state, with written consent of the prisoner, to share the person's HIV/AIDS status with other public agencies to help them determine the person's eligibility for public health and social service benefits.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on PUB. S. From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred. (Ayes 6. Noes 1. Page 4397.) (April 1).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2279 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would prohibit an employer from discriminating against a person because the person is a qualified patient or primary caregiver permitted to grow or use marijuana.
Status: From committee: Amend, do pass as amended, and re-refer to Com. on L. & E. (Ayes 6. Noes 3.) (April 8).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2737 (Mike Feuer, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: Would allow a court to order a test for HIV or other communicable diseases from any arrestee whenever the blood or other bodily fluids of this person comes into contact with the skin of a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical person.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. Re-referred. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (April 8).
LLP position: Watch.

AB 2743 (Lori Saldana, D–San Diego)
Purpose: Says the state will not cooperate in federal raids or prosecutions for marijuana-related offenses if the target is a qualified patient, a designated caregiver, or other person covered under state medical marijuana laws.
Status: Referred to Com. on PUB. S.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2899 (Anthony Portantino, D–Pasadena)
Purpose: Would require the state to develop an HIV counseling program available to all persons who receive HIV testing at a state funded testing site or clinic.
Status: Read second time. To third reading.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1098 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would state that medical marijuana dispensaries are legal under California law and would relieve them of liability for sales taxes owed prior to October 2005. In early years it was not clear that they should be charging sales taxes.
Status: Set, first hearing. Testimony taken. Further hearing to be set.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1184 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would require clinical laboratories to report all CD4 count test results to the local health officer within 7 days of the completion of the CD4 count test. If a CD4 count test result is related to a case of HIV infection, the local health officer would be required to report the case of HIV infection or AIDS to the state within 45 days of receipt of the report. CD4 count test results would be confidential and may not be used as evidence in court. If the clinical laboratory CD4 count test result is not related to a case of HIV infection, the local health officer shall destroy the laboratory CD4 count test report.
Status: From committee: Do pass, but first be re-referred to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 11. Noes 0. Page 3211.) Re-referred to Com. on APPR. Set for hearing April 14.
LLP position: Watch.

SB 1600 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would require charter schools to provide HIV/AIDS education to students.
Status: Set for hearing April 16.
LLP position: Support.

Continued on page 6

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Legislative update

Continued from page 5

SJR 20 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would urge the federal government to stop prosecuting medical marijuana dispensaries that are legal under California law.
Status: Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Com. on JUD.
LLP position: Support.

Economic issues

AB 2 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: Would continue a program that provides affordable health insurance to those who are otherwise uninsurable due to medical history.
Status: To inactive file on motion of Senator Perata.
LLP position: Support.

AB 100 (Gene Mullin, D–San Mateo)
Purpose: Would authorize a bond issue, if approved by the voters, of $9.087 billion for public grade schools, high schools, colleges and universities to construct or improve educational facilities.
Status: Referred to Com. on RLS.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1758 (Chuck DeVore, R–Irvine)
Purpose: Would require California's public colleges and universities to waive fees and tuition for members of the California National Guard.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on V.A.
LLP position: Watch.

AB 1780 (Cathleen Galgiani, D–Stockton)
Purpose: The state is supposed to reimburse counties for certain public mental health programs. They failed to do so for these particular programs for several counties. This bill will put in place regulations to prevent that from happening again.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred. (Ayes 13. Noes 2.) (April 8).
LLP position: Support.

AB 1821 (Anthony Portantino, D–Pasadena)
Purpose: Would require a more open, visible process when decisions are being made on compensation of Cal State University executives.
Status: In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (Refers to 3/25/2008 hearing)
LLP position: Support.

AB 1887 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Would require that certain health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies issued should cover the diagnosis and treatment of a mental illness as defined as a mental illness by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV.
Status: Referred to Com. on HEALTH.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1900 (Pedro Nava, D–Santa Barbara)
Purpose: Would allow counties to increase fees for certified copies of death certificates by up to $3 per copy if needed to fund services to senior citizens. Would also allow counties to increase fines for elder abuse by 10% and use the money for senior services.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred. (Ayes 7. Noes 3. Page 4423.) (April 1).
LLP position: Support.

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AB 1965 (Sandre Swanson, D–Oakland)
Purpose: Would require the state to allow prisoners who are at least 55 years of age, are incarcerated for a nonviolent offense, and have a diagnosed chronic illness that requires ongoing medical attention, have medical coverage, and meet other specified criteria to be released on parole.
Status: In committee: Set, second hearing. Held without recommendation.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1966 (Bonnie Garcia, R–Cathedral City)
Purpose: Establishes rules and procedures to encourage more schools in limited income neighborhoods to provide breakfast to students.
Status: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1996 (Sandre Swanson [D–Oakland)
Purpose: Would allow people convicted of drug felonies to qualify for food stamps after getting out of prison, under certain conditions, if they successfully complete a government-recognized drug treatment program while in jail or are in such a program or are on a waiting list for it.
Status: Read second time. To third reading.
LLP position: Watch.

AB 2097 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Would authorize a redevelopment agency to provide construction, operation, and maintenance funding from the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund to emergency shelters and supportive services to permanent housing for those who are homeless or have special needs.
Status: In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (Refers to 4/4/2008 hearing)
LLP position: Support.

AB 2099 (Loni Hancock, D–El Cerrito)
Purpose: Would provide that prior to each juvenile and adult being released on parole, the department shall take reasonable steps to ensure that each parolee successfully obtains a valid California identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.
Status: In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.
LLP position: Support.

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AB 2125 (Curren Price, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: Would require juvenile justice plans to assess job training services and strategies, and require a demonstration of their effectiveness at reducing delinquency through job training and employment to qualify for funding.
Status: Read second time. To Consent Calendar. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 2178 (Martin Garrick, R–Carlsbad)
Purpose: Would lower the annual corporation tax of most corporations from $800 to $200 per year. This would lower state government income and increase pressure to cut budgets for health and social service programs
Status: Referred to Com. on REV. & TAX.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2229 (Jared Huffman, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: Would provide for one dental examination per year for Medi-Cal beneficiaries living in long-term care facilities as a covered Medi-Cal benefit.
Status: In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2331 (Mark DeSaulnier, D–Martinez)
Purpose: Would allow California to provide financing for the construction, rehabilitation, and purchase of housing for persons and families whose income is up to 150% of area median income.
Status: In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2337 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Would require alcohol and drug counselors to report evidence of child abuse to authorities.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2368 (Felipe Fuentes, D–Arleta)
Purpose: Would exclude the value of a licensed motor vehicle from consideration when determining or redetermining CalWORKs eligibility.
Status: Referred to Com. on HUM. S.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2372 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Would limit tuition and fees charged at the California State University and the University of California to those in effect during the 2008-09 academic year. Beginning in 2014, any increase in tuition and fees would be limited to the annual percentage change in the California Consumer Price Index. Would also increase income taxes for those with income of over $1 million to help cover costs of colleges which are not covered by tuition received.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on REV. & TAX. Re-referred. (Ayes 4. Noes 1. Page 4357.) (March 25).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2409 (Pedro Nava, D–Santa Barbara)
Purpose: Would prohibit the destruction of records of a ward who was 14 years of age or older at the time he or she committed a sexually violent offense, as defined. Would authorize, in any investigation, action, or proceeding based on the sexually violent predator laws, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the State Department of Mental Health, and the attorney petitioning for commitment, or their agents, to obtain and use sealed records.
Status: Read second time and amended.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2463 (Mike Davis, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would require the state to award a grant to a qualified nonprofit organization to conduct a diabetes and hypertension prevention and awareness pilot program in south Los Angeles
Status: Re-referred to Com. on HEALTH.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2586 (Alberto Torrico, D–Fremont)
Purpose: Would require that, in many circumstances, rental tenants be given 60 days notice to vacate.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on U. & C. Re-referred. (Ayes 7. Noes 2. Page 4422.) (April 1).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2716 (Fiona Ma, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would provide that an employee who works in California for 7 or more days in a calendar year is entitled to paid sick time
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on JUD. Re-referred. (Ayes 6. Noes 2.) (April 9).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2726 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would extend to 2012 a pilot program in the Department of Public Health to buy healthy foods and make them available to people in low income neighborhoods and would allow the program to be carried on with funds from any source, not just on appropriation of adequate funds by the legislature.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on AGRI. Re-referred. (Ayes 10. Noes 5. Page 4425.) (April 1).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2844 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: Current law requires that a redetermination of eligibility for food stamps and CalWORKs be done quarterly. This bill would change that semiannually.
Status: Referred to Com. on HUM. S.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2879 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would establish a process for closer monitoring of employers who may be violating wage and hour laws or who may be paying too little in payroll taxes to the state.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred. (Ayes 6. Noes 2.) (April 9).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2897 (Loni Hancock, D–El Cerrito)
Purpose: Would raise maximum state income tax to 10–11% of taxable income. Would raise the maximum alternate minimum state income tax to 8.5% of taxable income. This would raise state revenue and reduce pressure to cut vital health and social service programs.
Status: Referred to Com. on REV. & TAX.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2929 (Loni Hancock, D–El Cerrito)
Purpose: Would require the Department of Corrections to develop a comprehensive reentry program for parolees to assist in the successful reintegration of parolees into the community, which would include providing a copy of any parole plan to the sheriff of the county into which an inmate is released.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred. (Ayes 5. Noes 1.) (April 8).
LLP position: Support.

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Legislative update

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AJR 3 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To ask Congress and the President to increase funds for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program and to appropriate the entire amount to the states.
Status: Referred to Com. on U. & C.
LLP position: Support.

SB 32 (Darrell Steinberg, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: Would allow all California children whose family income is under 300% of the federal poverty level access to the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs and would eliminate the rules that deny coverage to some based on citizenship or immigration status.
Status: Placed on inactive file on request of Assemblymember Bass.
LLP position: Support.

SB 42 (Tom Torlakson, D–Concord)
Purpose: Would exempt CalWORKs recipients from work if they have applied for, but not yet been accepted by an approved education program.
Status: Placed on inactive file on request of Assemblymember Nunez.
LLP position: Support.

SB 840 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would create a single payer health care system to provide health insurance to all residents of the state of California.
Status: Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1101 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would allow taxpayers, until January 1, 2014, to designate on their tax returns that an amount in excess of their tax liability be contributed to the Emergency Food for Families Fund.
Status: Do pass as amended, and re-refer to the Committee on Appropriations.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1132 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would say that foster children on Medi-Cal do not have to re-apply for Medi-Cal when they become 18 and age out of foster care.
Status: From committee with author's amendments. Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1136 (Elaine Alquist, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Would prohibit anyone from charging an unconscionable fee to represent or aid someone in the procurement of public social services.
Status: From committee with author's amendments. Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Com. on PUB. S. Set for hearing April 15.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1147 (Ronald Calderon, D–Montebello)
Purpose: Would require that Medi-Cal services be suspended, but that eligibility not be terminated, when a youth is sent to jail. This would allow for faster re-establishment of Medi-Cal services when the youth is released.
Status: From committee with author's amendments. Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1199 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would reduce the maximum sentence for a murder committed by someone under 18 from life without possibility of parole to 25 years to life.
Status: Set for hearing April 21.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1250 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would require that youth jail facilities take steps to increase communication between juvenile inmates and their families and to keep families informed of the health and other conditions of their children in juvenile facilities because this has been shown to reduce additional crimes by youth once they are released from jail.
Status: From committee: Do pass as amended, but first amend, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 5. Noes 0. Page 3251.)
LLP position: Support.

SB 1261 (Dave Cox, R–Roseville)
Purpose: Would require the use of inmate labor in construction, repair or renovation of prison or juvenile justice facilities.
Status: Set for hearing April 21.
LLP position: Oppose.

SB 1341 (Alex Padilla, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: Would allow people to save money to secure permanent rental housing or to make rent payments to overcome an episode of homelessness without those savings being considered excess assets that might disqualify them for CalWORKs.
Status: Set for hearing April 14.
LLP position: Support.

SCR 69 (Jeff Denham, R–Modesto)
Purpose: Would require that all votes on budget bills in committees, as well as on the Senate and Assembly floors, require a two-thirds majority to pass.
Status: From committee with author's amendments. Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.
LLP position: Oppose.

LGBTI issues

AB 250 (Chuck DeVore, R–Irvine)
Purpose: Would allow the owner of real property to complete a brief document transferring the property to another person upon the death of the owner. The property transferred would not have to go through the probate process.
Status: From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on JUD.
LLP position: Support.

AB 624 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Would require foundations with assets over $250,000,000 to report information about the communities served (including the LGBT community).
Status: From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on B., P. & E.D.
LLP position: Watch.

AB 1757 (Mary Hayashi, D–Hayward)
Purpose: Would add the domestic partners of victims of a crime to a list of people allowed to testify at the parole hearing of a person who committed the crime
Status: Re-referred to Com. on PUB. S.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2086 (Bob Huff, R–Diamond Bar)
Purpose: Would require a school to notify parents when sexual orientation or gender identity are to be discussed in the classroom and tell parents how to get their children excused from the class.

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Status: In committee: Set, first hearing. Failed passage.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2567 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would require the Governor to proclaim May 22 of each year as Harvey Milk Day. Would encourage schools to conduct suitable commemorative exercises on that date.
Status: Referred to Com. on ED.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2654 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: Would amend existing nondiscrimination provisions to be consistent with the nondiscrimination protections in the Unruh Civil Rights Act and Government Code Section 11135, which prohibits discrimination in state funded programs and activities. Would thus improve protection of the LGBTI community among others.
Status: In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (Refers to 4/8/2008 hearing).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2673 (Mike Feuer, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: For some counties, under current law, if a deceased retiree has a child under 18, and a domestic partner, the child would get the retiree's pension, not the domestic partner. This bill would make the domestic partner the primary beneficiary in these counties even when their is a surviving minor child.
Status: Referred to Com. on P.E.,R. & S.S.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1066 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would allow heterosexuals to register as domestic partners even if both of them are under age 62.
Status: Set for hearing April 14.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1729 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would require training for employees of senior care facilities to prevent sexual orientation or gender identity based discrimination in those facilities.
Status: From committee with author's amendments. Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Com. on HEALTH. Set for hearing April 16.
LLP position: Support.

People of color issues

AB 158 (Fiona Ma, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: This bill would allow people who have hepatitis B to qualify for Medi-Cal before they become disabled in hopes of preventing disability.
Status: Referred to Com. on HEALTH.
LLP position: Support.

AB 512 (Sally Lieber, D–Mountain View)
Purpose: Requires that when a business person negotiates specified loans or extensions of credit primarily in the languages of Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean then that person must provide summaries of the loan or credit documents in those languages.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on RLS. pursuant to Senate Rule 29.10. Re-referred to Com. on B., F. & I. pursuant to Senate Rule 29.10. (Ayes 4. Noes 0.)
LLP position: Support.

AB 1154 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would require the state to develop a diabetes risk reduction pilot program within the minimum number of counties necessary to represent the demographic populations in the state to review, analyze, and report on the outcomes from integrative care of diabetes through proactive prevention.
Status: Referred to Com. on HEALTH.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1871 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Would allow the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue authorizations of bilingual-crosscultural competence to specified holders of teaching credentials who will be serving limited-English-proficient pupils.
Status: Read second time. To Consent Calendar.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1882 (Martin Garrick, R–Carlsbad)
Purpose: Would require police to notify the federal government if they think a person arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, is an illegal alien.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on PUB. S. In committee: Set first hearing. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 1930 (Alberto Torrico, D–Fremont)
Purpose: Would require California to take steps to make sure that people with limited English skills will be adequately protected in an emergency situation or natural disaster.
Status: From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on G.O. Read second time and amended.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2034 (Fabian Nunez, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would require the State Board of Education to ensure that instructional materials include American Indians and encourage instruction about American Indians, emphasizing California Native Americans.
Status: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 2056 (Kevin De Leon, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would allow schools to use certain unexpended funds received, from the State, to provide intensive instruction and services to help pupils who are English language learners in grades 9 or 10 who are at risk of not passing one or both portions of the California High School Exit Examination.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on ED.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2064 (Juan Arambula, D–Fresno)
Purpose: Would require the State Board of Education to ensure that instructional materials include instruction on the Vietnam War, the "Secret War" in Laos, the role of Southeast Asians in that war, and the refugee/immigrant/new American experience.
Status: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 2076 (Felipe Fuentes, D–Arleta)
Purpose: Would prohibit the State from participating in any employment eligibility verification system, unless required by federal law. The bill would also prohibit a county or municipality from requiring any employer to use an employment eligibility verification system.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on L. & E.
LLP position: Support.

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AB 2083 (Fabian Nunez, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would allow certain undocumented immigrants to qualify for institutional financial aid award scholarships not paid for out of the state General Fund.
Status: In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2089 (Chuck DeVore, R–Irvine)
Purpose: Would prohibit the state from contracting with employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants. Would require state contractors to inform the state within 3 days of discovering that an employee is an undocumented immigrant.
Status: Referred to Com. on B. & P.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2102 (Mimi Walters, R–Laguna Hills)
Purpose: Would require state agencies to use the federal E-verify system to check whether their employees are legal permanent residents. Would require state contractors to do the same.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on B. & P.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2106 (Mary Hayashi, D–Hayward)
Purpose: Would ban the manufacture or sale of cosmetics with certain ingredients.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2141 (Van Tran, R–Costa Mesa)
Purpose: Would require the Department of Corrections to verify the immigration status of new inmates and to cooperate in the deportation of undocumented immigrant inmates.
Status: In committee: Set second hearing. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2199 (George Plescia, R–San Diego)
Purpose: Would require the state to cooperate with the federal government in the investigation, apprehension, or detention of undocumented aliens in the state.
Status: In committee: Set, first hearing. Failed passage.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2200 (George Plescia, R–San Diego)
Purpose: Would enact legislation to prohibit any person from concealing, harboring, or sheltering undocumented immigrants.
Status: From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2201 (George Plescia, R–San Diego)
Purpose: Would require state contractors to verify the employment eligibility of its employees in this state by using the federal E-Verify system, or any successor to that system.
Status: Referred to Com. on B. & P.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2204 (Hector De La Torre, D–South Gate)
Purpose: Would require title companies, that process documents regarding the sale or transfer of ownership of real estate to remove from those documents any clauses that violate non-discrimination laws.
Status: In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2317 (Mimi Walters, R–Laguna Hills)
Purpose: Would prohibit a person from registering to vote unless he or she can provide proof of citizenship.
Status: From E. & R.: Failed passage. (Refers to 4/8/2008 hearing)
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2327 (Anna Caballero, D–Salinas)
Purpose: Would require that all people affected by an emergency are provided with humanitarian services and other needed relief services. No state entity or employee shall require documents or identification from an individual seeking disaster relief or emergency services unless required by state or federal law.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on G.O.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2333 (Curren Price, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: Would require police to prohibit the use of derogatory epithets or adverse treatment of an individual based on or because of that individual's sex, race, color, ancestry, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, martial status, or medical condition.
Status: From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on PUB. S. Read second time and amended.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2340 (Juan Arambula, D–Fresno)
Purpose: Would encourage school districts to schedule classes for English learner adults at times that would allow working adults to participate.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2405 (Juan Arambula, D–Fresno)
Purpose: Would permit a county to assess up to $250 upon conviction for domestic violence, to be used to fund domestic violence prevention programs that focus on assisting women who are immigrants or refugees or who live in rural communities.
Status: Referred to Com. on PUB. S.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2418 (Bob Huff, R–Diamond Bar)
Purpose: Says that no undocumented immigrant charged with certain violent or gang-related felonies shall be eligible for bail or released pending trial. Would also require the sheriff to notify federal authorities of the person's arrest and charges and would also require the sheriff, district attorney, and trial courts of each county to record the status of any undocumented immigrant charged, booked, or convicted of a felony and report this information to federal authorities so that reimbursement may be sought from the federal government for the cost of incarceration.
Status: In committee: Set first hearing. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2419 (Bob Huff, R–Diamond Bar)
Purpose: Would require the police to notify the federal government when they arrest someone for driving under the influence if they suspect the person arrested is an undocumented immigrant.
Status: Referred to Com. on PUB. S.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2420 (Bob Huff, R–Diamond Bar)
Purpose: Says no one can enact an ordinance or policy that prohibits police from trying to discover a person's immigration status or that prohibits the police from arresting or booking a person for being an undocumented immigrant.
Status: In committee: Set first hearing. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted.
LLP position: Oppose.

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AB 2421 (Bob Huff, R–Diamond Bar)
Purpose: Would require state and local authorities to investigate and prosecute complaints that an employer is employing undocumented immigrants.
Status: In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2514 (Mike Eng, D–El Monte)
Purpose: Would provide direction to state and private projects by establishing procedures for the proper handling and preservation of historical human remains found at construction sites. Will ensure that local cultural and historical organizations are given the opportunity to provide recommendations for the treatment and disposition of the excavated archaeological human remains, in a timely matter.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on L. GOV. Re-referred. (Ayes 6. Noes 3.) (April 8).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2601 (John Benoit, R–Riverside)
Purpose: Would withhold vehicle license fee income from cities that declare themselves sanctuaries for undocumented immigrants.
Status: Referred to Com. on L. GOV.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2689 (Van Tran, R–Costa Mesa)
Purpose: Would require manufacturers of nail care products with hazardous substances in them to create documents, in the Vietnamese language, describing the hazards of the products and to provide them, when requested, to employers and employees in the nail care industry.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred. (Ayes 7. Noes 1.) (April 9).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2762 (Mike Eng, D–El Monte)
Purpose: Would establish the Diversity Education Pilot Program, which would authorize the State Department of Education to award $25,000 to 5 schools, for necessary resources and tools to deal with incidents of hate crime or intergroup conflict on school campuses.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on ED.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2812 (Jim Silva, R–Huntington Beach)
Purpose: Would allow the Governor or local officials to declare a state of emergency in response prpblems with border security. Presumably this is meant to allow a state of emergency if undocumented aliens are getting across the border.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on G.O.
LLP position: Oppose.

AB 2826 (Tony Mendoza, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: Would cause a vote to be held on whether the President and Congress should create a pathway to citizenship for certain undocumented immigrants.
Status: In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (Refers to 4/1/2008 hearing)
LLP position: Watch.

AB 2902 (Sandre Swanson, D–Oakland)
Purpose: Would require the Office of Multicultural Health to encourage the use of community-based health care workers to provide better health outcomes for underserved communities through the various public health programs.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred. (Ayes 12. Noes 4.) (April 8).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2974 (Jose Solorio, D–Anaheim)
Purpose: Would require the state to establish a pilot English learner program, for use in schools with a high percentage of English learners.
Status: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations.
LLP position: Support.

AB 3027 (Kevin De Leon, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would require health care plans and insurance companies to send notices to their subscribers to inform subscribers about their right to language access services and procedures and to request assistance from their health plan or insurer. Notices would have to be in 13 languages.
Status: In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (Refers to 4/8/2008 hearing)
LLP position: Support.

ACA 14 (Audra Strickland, R–Westlake Village)
Purpose: Would require people to provide evidence of their United States citizenship or right to lawfully reside in the United States when applying for a nonemergency state-funded public benefit.
Status: Read first time.
LLP position: Oppose.

AJR 44 (Bob Huff, R–Diamond Bar)
Purpose: Would urge Congress to amend the constitution to deny US citizenship to individuals born in the United States to parents who are neither US citizens nor legal permanent residents.
Status: From printer.
LLP position: Oppose.

AJR 47 (Felipe Fuentes, D–Arleta)
Purpose: Would urge the United States Congress and the President to establish an official federal holiday to commemorate Cesar E. Chavez on his birthday, March 31
Status: Referred to Com. on G.O.
LLP position: Support.

SB 60 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would allow the state to issue driver's licenses to certain undocumented immigrants when approval of that action is approved by the federal government as allowed under the federal real ID act.
Status: From third reading: Pass and Retain.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1094 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would establish the Office of Immigrant Affairs whose job would be to ensure the integration and civic participation of new citizens in the state.
Status: Set for hearing April 21.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1115 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Says that race, religious creed, color, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sex, or genetic predisposition shall not be considered to be a cause or other factor considered in any determination of the amount of workers compensation benefit to award to an injured worker.
Status: In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.
LLP position: Watch.

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SB 1134 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Redondo Beach)
Purpose: Would establish a state-recognized Indian reservation for the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe, a nonfederally recognized Indian tribe, effective immediately upon the certification of specified facts by the city or cities in which the reservation is located.
Status: From print. May be acted upon on or after March 2. **LLP position:** Watch.

SB 1214 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: This bill would add the unconstitutional deportation during the Great Depression of citizens and lawful permanent residents to Mexico to the instruction that is required to be provided in social studies classes, and to the material that the department is required to incorporate into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources.
Status: Set for hearing April 21.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1301 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would allow the state's public colleges and universities to offer scholarships to certain undocumented immigrants.
Status: Set for hearing April 21.
LLP position: Support.

SJR 18 (Mark Wyland, R–San Juan Capistrano)
Purpose: Would require that all election ballots and ballot pamphlets be printed only in English.**Status:** Re-referred to Com. on E., R. & C.A.
LLP position: Oppose.

Women's issues

AB 184 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: Enacts a Medi-Cal rate increase for family planning clinical office visits.
Status: To inactive file on motion of Senator Kuehl.
LLP position: Support.

AB 225 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Would strengthen laws against making repeated harassing phone calls against others.
Status: From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on PUB. S.
LLP position: Support.

AB 268 (Charles Calderon, Charles, D–City of Industry)
Purpose: Would allow a person to refuse to testify in court because of threats of harm to the witness by the person who does not want the person to testify.
Status: In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (Refers to 6/26/2007 hearing)
LLP position: Support.

AB 437 (Dave Jones, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: Would overturn a court decision and would allow people who have experienced wage discrimination to get back wages all the way back to when the wage discrimination first occurred.
Status: To inactive file on motion of Assemblymember Jones. (Page 3341.)
LLP position: Support.

AB 499 (Sandre Swanson, D–Oakland)
Purpose: Would create a pilot project to train county workers to assist children that have been sexually exploited including those made to work as prostitutes.
Status: Referred to Com. on PUB. S.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1275 (Mark DeSaulnier, D–Martinez)
Purpose: Would allow counties to increase fees for copies of marriage certificates, birth certificates, fetal death records, and death records, by up to $4, to fund oversight and coordination of domestic violence prevention, early intervention, and prosecution.
Status: In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on L.GOV.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1771 (Fiona Ma, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: States that a prior conviction of domestic abuse is a good cause basis for a judge to issue a current restraining order upon request. Provides an additional monetary penalty for those convicted of domestic violence with that money going to domestic abuse prevention programs. Requires superior courts to release certain publicly available information in domestic abuse cases. Also would create a web page listing people convicted of domestic abuse.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred. (Ayes 6. Noes 1.) (April 8).
LLP position: Support if web page list of offenders is removed from bill

AB 1774 (Sally Lieber, D–Mountain View)
Purpose: Would require health insurance plans to pay for annual gynecological cancer screening.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on HEALTH.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1822 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Says a court shall deny any temporary or permanent award for spousal support to a party who has been convicted of a sexual offense in which the victim was a minor.
Status: In committee: Set, second hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1935 (Jean Fuller, R–Bakersfield)
Purpose: Would allow taxpayers to designate on their tax returns, that a specified amount in excess of their tax liability be transferred to the California Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1940 (Chuck DeVore, R–Irvine)
Purpose: Would allow a pregnant woman, in her third trimester, to qualify for a disabled parking placard.
Status: In committee: Set first hearing. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1955 (George Plescia, R–San Diego)
Purpose: Under existing law, in most cases, a judge in any criminal action may not read or consider any written report of a law enforcement officer or witness, or other information or affidavit, after a complaint or accusatory pleading is filed but before a plea, finding, or verdict is made without the defendant's consent. This bill says the judge can review those things when considering whether to issue a restraining order in a domestic violence case.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on PUB. S.
LLP position: Support.

AB 1962 (Hector De La Torre, D–South Gate)
Purpose: Would require health insurers to provide maternity care as a basic benefit.
Status: Referred to Com. on HEALTH.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2035 (Fiona Ma, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Would increase funding for mammograms for women enrolled in the Breast Cancer Treatment Program.

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Status: Re-referred to Com. on TRANS.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2052 (Ted Lieu, D–El Segundo)
Purpose: Would allow tenants who have been victims of domestic abuse or stalking to cancel a lease agreement and get a refund of their prorated rent, before the termination date of the lease.
Status: Read second time. To third reading.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2068 (Greg Aghazarian, R–Stockton)
Purpose: Would authorize the sheriff or Marshall, for any order or injunction relating to harassment, workplace violence, domestic violence, or elder abuse, for which the sheriff or marshal provides service of process, to notify the petitioner by electronic or telephonic means within 24 hours after service of process that the order or injunction has been served on the respondent.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on JUD.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2129 (Jim Beall, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Would require the state to implement a model program for the universal screening, assessment, referral, and treatment of pregnant women and women of childbearing age who are suffering from drug and alcohol abuse.
Status: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations. **LLP position:** Support.

AB 2208 (Curren Price, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: Would create the Lupus Education and Awareness Program (LEAP) within the Department of Public Health. The program would conduct a needs assessment, public awareness activities, professional education programs, a directory of lupus services and a grant program for private nonprofit organizations. Lupus is 9 times more common in women than in men.
Status: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. Re-referred. (Ayes 12. Noes 4.) (April 8).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2234 (Anthony Portantino, D–Pasadena)
Purpose: Would require health insurance plans and health care service plans to cover a variety of tests for breast disease instead of just requiring coverage for mammography as now is the case.
Status: In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (Refers to 4/8/2008 hearing)
LLP position: Support.

AB 2304 (George Plescia, R–San Diego)
Purpose: Would prohibit a petition for name change, by a victim of domestic abuse or stalking, from being published by any means or in any public forum, including a hardcopy or an electronic copy.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
LLP position: Support.

AB 2887 (Patty Berg, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: Says the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program for low-income and uninsured and underinsured individuals will cover digital and analog mammography where mammography services are otherwise covered under the program.
Status: From committee: Amend, do pass as amended, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 12. Noes 3.) (April 8).
LLP position: Support.

AB 2972 (Sally Lieber, D–Mountain View)
Purpose: Would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the Family Foundations Program and the mother-infant care programs.
Status: Re-referred to Com. on PUB. S.
LLP position: Support.

ACR 15 (Sally Lieber, D–Mountain View)
Purpose: Would commemorate January 2007 as cervical cancer awareness month.
Status: Referred to Com. on RLS.
LLP position: Support.

AJR 42 (Bonnie Garcia, R–Cathedral City)
Purpose: The federal Violence Against Women Act, enacted in 1994, established a policy of allowing immigrants who are victims of domestic violence to seek permanent legal residence. The bill would urge Congress not to take that right away.
Status: From printer.
LLP position: Support.

SB 265 (Gloria Romero, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would state the Division of Juvenile Justice shall explore options to provide programming for female offenders outside of division facilities. On or before January 1, 2009, the division shall transfer all female offenders out of division facilities.
Status: Placed on inactive file on request of Assemblymember Bass.
LLP position: Support.

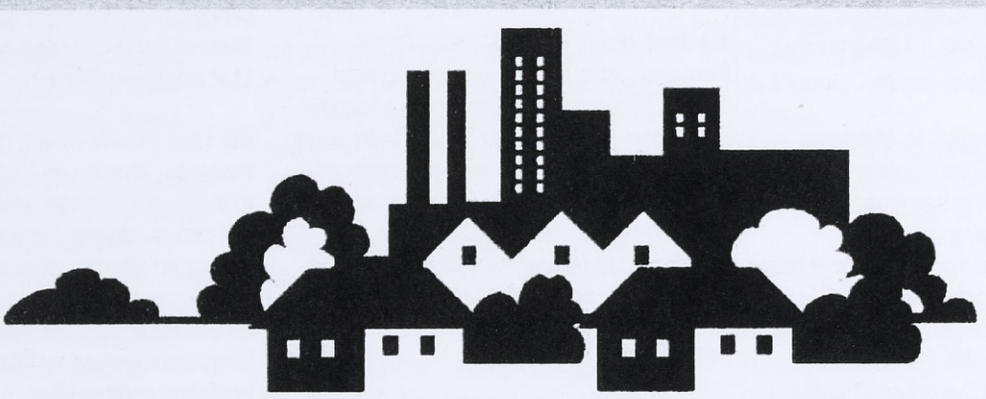
SB 1348 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would require the state to provide breast cancer screening services to any individual who meets both state and federal eligibility requirements. Would require an individual under 40 years of age to receive screening services if the individual is considered to be at high risk for breast cancer.
Status: Set for hearing April 21.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1523 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would require that written notice to victims of domestic violence regarding the person alleged to have committed domestic violence, shelter services, community services, and restraining orders be translated into the most prevalent languages spoken by local limited-English-proficient communities.
Status: Set for hearing April 21.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1578 (Dean Florez, D–Fresno)
Purpose: Would require the California State University, and request the Regents of the University of California, to establish an Office of Gender Equity (OGE), and to appoint a Title IX compliance officer who reports directly to the OGE within each respective university system. This bill would further require mandatory Title IX and gender equity training for all athletic department personnel and executive level university management.
Status: Set, first hearing. Hearing cancelled at request of author. (Refers to 4/9/2008 hearing)
LLP position: Support.

SB 1682 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would require Medi-Cal to pay more for family planning visits.
Status: To Com. on HEALTH.
LLP position: Support.

SB 1770 (Alex Padilla, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: Would extend the sunset date of the Reproductive Rights Law Enforcement Act (RRLEA) and direct the CA Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) to develop guidelines and model procedures for investigation and reporting of anti-reproductive rights crimes. This bill would help to ensure women's access to essential reproductive health care services.
Status: Set for hearing April 21.
LLP position: Support.



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